Press release

The Met. Office makes forecasts free for pilots

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Release number 411

UK aviation weather forecasts are being made available free of charge to general aviators for the first time following a groundbreaking decision by The Met. Office.

From May 11, half-hourly weather observations (METARs) and terminal aerodrome forecasts (TAFs) for UK airfields will be available at no charge from the aviation pages of The Met. Office's web site: http://www.met-office.gov.uk/aviation.

The decision to make TAFs and METARs freely available follows widespread discussions between general aviation pilots, the Met. Authority, and representatives of The Met. Office's aviation unit.

The move is being credited to reductions in the cost of delivery afforded by the Internet and is being hailed by general aviation representatives as a major step forward for air safety in the UK.

Dave Underwood, Head of Aviation at The Met. Office, said, "It has always been The Met. Office's intention to make as much weather forecast data freely available to the general aviation sector as possible, as part of our ongoing commitment towards promoting safer skies."

Ians to make European TAFs and METARs available free of charge via the Internet in the coming months are currently being explored by The Met. Office and the Met. Authority.

Other forecasts such as rainfall radar movieloops, satellite images as well as F215 and F214 forecasts providing spot wind information and significant weather charts will continue to be available via The Met. Office's MetFAX and MetWEB services at a small charge.

For further information:
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